

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
CENTRAL STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION
Columbus, Ohio

Technical Note 59

September 15, 1943

Preliminary Report on Lumber Production for 1942 in Missouri^{1/}

by L. F. Kellogg
Silviculturist

During 1942, 2,084 active sawmills in Missouri produced 275,038,000 board feet of lumber. In addition, some 573 idle mills brought the total number in the State to 2,462. Early in the year mills were producing rapidly; but by midyear loss of labor to other industries and to the armed forces was telling and production lessened materially during the last six months.

Final production statistics which are now being compiled by the Bureau of the Census and which will be released by that agency in due time, are based on the complete coverage of the industry by mail supplemented by a Forest Service survey to get information from nonreporting mills and from those not previously on record. Nineteen-forty-two is the first year that lumber production has been obtained in the entire State in this manner.

The lumber production in Missouri is predominantly hardwood (88.3 percent) but softwoods comprise some 30.6 million feet (11.1 percent) and consist mostly of shortleaf pine, a little cypress and very minor amounts of cedar and other kinds (table 1). Among the hardwoods, oak led with about 60 percent of the total volume. Cottonwood came next (6.4 percent), followed by sycamore (6.2 percent), elm (4.2 percent), walnut (3.3 percent) and lesser amounts of others. Small mills operated only a few days a year, farmer-owned mills and even some local custom mills sawing less than 50 M board feet per year produced 7.2 percent of the year's total, some 19.9 million board feet.

Table 1. -- Estimated lumber production in MISSOURI, by kinds of wood and size class of mill, in 1942

Kind of wood	Quantity produced per annum		Total	Proportion
	by mills sawing:			
	49 M & less per annum	50 M & over per annum		
	<u>M feet b.m.</u>	<u>M feet b.m.</u>	<u>M feet b.m.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Softwoods</u>				
Cedar	81	748	329	0.3
Cypress	175	3,031	3,206	1.2
Fir (Douglas?)	-	3	3	-
Pine, white	-	16	16	-
Pine, yellow	476	26,089	26,565	9.6
Total softwoods	732	29,887	30,619	11.1
<u>Hardwoods</u>				
Ash	134	973	1,107	0.4
Basswood	36	35	121	-
Beech	2	357	859	0.3

^{1/} Preliminary data subject to revision. Final production statistics will be released by the Bureau of the Census. Both preliminary and final statistics are the result of surveys made by the Forest Service, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Dept. of Commerce and the Statistics Division, War Production Board. In Missouri the State Forester gave active support and assistance to the work.

Table 1 (Cont'd)

Kind of wood	Quantity produced per annum by mills sawing:		Total	Proportion
	49 M & less	50 M & over		
	per annum	per annum		
	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.	Percent
Birch, river	65	500	565	0.2
Cottonwood	1,923	15,667	17,590	6.4
Elm	2,064	9,595	11,659	4.2
Gum, red	115	6,448	6,563	2.4
Hickory	387	5,027	5,414	2.0
Maple	549	4,369	4,918	1.8
Oak	12,377	151,587	163,964	59.7
Sycamore	1,101	15,348	16,449	6.2
Tupelo, black gum	139	4,263	4,407	1.6
Walnut	246	8,699	8,945	3.3
Yellowpoplar	4	457	461	0.2
Other hardwoods				
Black cherry	-	16	16	-
Box elder	-	70	70	-
Hackberry	29	328	357	0.1
Kentucky coffeetree	1	-	1	-
Locust	-	85	85	-
Mahogany	-	1	1	-
Mulberry	-	2	2	-
Pecan	2	27	29	-
Willow	20	316	336	0.1
Total hardwoods	19,194	225,225	244,419	88.9
Total all woods	19,926	255,112	275,038	100.0
Percent	7.2	92.8	100.0	

Compilation of production on the basis of counties brings out the importance of the forest and its industries by localities (table 2). Annual production varied from about 100,000 board feet, or less, per county to over 12,000,000 board feet per county. The eastern half of the Ozarks is the largest lumber-producing portion of the State. Over much of the remainder of the State, total production amounted to 2.5 million feet per county or less during 1942.

Table 2.-- Estimated lumber production in Missouri and number of sawmills by size class of mill, in 1942

County or counties	Production class						Active mills	
	Idle	49 M or less per year	50 M or more per year	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total
	mills	Mills	Production	Mills	Production	mills	production	Mills
	No.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.
Adair	4	13	299	9	875	26	1,174	22
Andrew & Holt	11	21	538	6	324	33	912	27
Atchison	2	6	140	3	268	11	408	9
Barry	2	5	148	11	1,922	18	2,070	16
Bates & Cass	7	14	214	5	433	26	647	19
Benton	3	11	218	10	2,061	24	2,279	21
Bollinger	2	10	188	35	9,562	47	9,750	45
Boone	4	8	120	5	520	17	640	13

Table 2 (Cont'd)

County or counties	Production class					Total mills	Active mills	
	Idle : 49 M or less per year:		50 M or more per year:				Total	
	mills:	Mills:	Production:	Mills:	Production:		production:	Mills
	No.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.
Buchanan	1	9	114	3	3,622	13	3,736	12
Butler	2	21	560	27	11,044	50	11,604	43
Caldwell	5	10	116	3	185	18	301	13
Callaway	10	11	170	6	335	27	555	17
Camden	7	9	160	12	1,049	23	1,209	21
Cape Girardeau	-	14	327	13	10,017	32	10,344	32
Carroll & Ray	3	30	537	5	430	41	1,067	33
Carter	2	8	230	19	4,667	29	4,397	27
Cedar	5	3	174	9	801	22	975	17
Chariton	5	19	313	4	539	23	852	23
Christian	1	4	110	14	1,561	19	1,671	18
Clark & Scotland	6	15	226	3	400	24	626	18
Clay & Clinton	5	17	273	5	520	27	793	22
Cole	3	10	202	7	1,003	20	1,205	17
Cooper	4	16	270	5	806	25	1,076	21
Crawford	5	6	85	17	3,363	28	4,053	23
Dade	2	3	70	4	620	9	690	7
Dallas	2	3	75	13	2,100	18	2,173	16
Daviess	3	5	120	6	809	19	929	11
DeKalb	3	6	121	3	400	12	521	9
Dent	2	5	129	11	5,197	13	5,326	16
Douglas	3	9	175	30	6,505	42	6,680	39
Dunklin & Pemiscot	1	9	180	17	3,860	27	4,040	26
Franklin	3	23	476	14	2,316	45	2,792	37
Gasconade	6	20	314	3	369	34	1,133	23
Gentry & Worth	7	12	233	8	852	27	1,035	20
Greene & Lawrence	4	5	134	10	1,461	19	1,595	15
Grundy	2	11	219	3	359	16	573	14
Harrison	3	14	265	4	291	21	556	18
Henry	4	10	187	5	1,919	13	2,106	15
Hickory	3	8	155	5	310	16	465	13
Howard	1	3	75	3	1,169	7	1,244	6
Howell	1	12	265	19	6,334	32	6,649	31
Iron	3	15	351	24	5,153	42	5,504	39
Jackson	2	3	17	3	3,488	8	3,505	6
Jasper	1	4	81	7	1,588	12	1,669	11
Jefferson	2	6	54	7	1,340	15	1,394	13
Johnson	4	7	165	4	537	15	702	11
Knox	5	14	281	3	375	22	656	17
Laclede	5	13	194	14	2,565	32	2,759	27
Lafayette	5	8	80	7	584	20	664	15
Lewis	5	10	217	5	482	20	699	15
Lincoln	6	10	207	6	1,775	22	1,982	16
Linn	5	29	537	3	191	37	723	32
Livingston	3	11	257	9	1,270	23	1,527	20
McDonald	7	11	258	23	3,539	41	3,797	34
Macon	3	15	244	7	600	25	844	22
Madison	6	8	163	24	5,092	33	5,255	32

Table 2 (Cont'd)

County or counties	Production class						Active mills	
	Idle		49 M or less per year		50 M or more per year		Total	Total
	mills	Mills	Production	Mills	Production	mills	production	Mills
	No.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.
Maries	-	10	220	7	693	17	913	17
Marion	7	6	87	6	2,196	19	2,283	12
Miller	5	16	241	5	655	26	896	21
Mississippi	-	3	98	10	4,835	13	4,933	13
Moniteau	2	3	55	6	918	11	973	9
Monroe	5	15	262	5	369	25	631	20
Montgomery	2	9	170	7	757	18	927	16
Morgan	2	10	140	17	2,346	29	2,486	27
New Madrid	3	5	145	7	5,583	15	5,728	12
Newton	2	5	145	8	1,106	15	1,251	13
Nodaway	4	3	41	3	322	10	363	6
Osage	5	11	295	13	2,099	29	2,394	24
Ozark	6	10	220	20	5,890	36	6,110	30
Perry	1	10	177	17	3,570	28	3,747	27
Pettis	1	5	109	3	655	9	764	8
Phelps	3	10	94	10	2,722	23	2,816	20
Platte	1	8	107	-	-	9	107	8
Polk	2	5	57	5	559	12	616	10
Pulaski	2	10	225	3	595	15	320	13
Putnam & Mercer	5	17	333	3	290	25	623	20
Ralls	11	12	236	6	1,117	29	1,353	18
Randolph, Audrain & Pike	1	7	119	5	456	13	575	12
Reynolds	10	7	201	49	12,026	66	12,227	56
Ripley	2	11	276	32	3,165	45	8,441	43
St. Charles	2	4	109	7	980	13	1,089	11
St. Clair	3	8	145	5	770	16	915	13
St. Francois	3	4	30	11	2,056	13	2,136	15
St. Genevieve	8	20	372	14	2,113	42	2,490	34
St. Louis & St. Louis (city)	-	4	105	3	2,632	7	2,737	7
Saline	4	8	139	9	1,005	21	1,144	17
Schuyler	6	4	100	3	166	13	266	7
Scott	1	4	45	6	2,777	11	2,822	10
Shannon & Oregon	3	6	109	34	15,901	43	16,010	40
Shelby	4	10	180	7	417	21	597	17
Stoddard	6	5	122	24	9,602	35	9,724	29
Stone	2	6	133	3	1,500	16	1,633	14
Sullivan	2	13	252	4	340	19	592	17
Taney	3	15	302	6	1,172	24	1,474	21
Texas	7	24	565	39	10,093	70	10,658	63
Vernon & Barton	4	7	68	3	1,305	19	1,373	15
Warren	2	4	116	4	411	10	527	8
Washington	1	7	183	32	6,596	40	6,779	39
Wayne	5	14	403	40	10,406	59	10,314	54
Webster	1	6	105	10	3,152	17	3,257	16
Wright	3	7	106	10	2,277	20	2,383	17
Total	378	1,005	19,926	1,079	255,112	2,462	275,038	2,084

1/ Several counties have been combined to avoid disclosing data for individual establishments.

Further analysis of the 255 million board feet sawed by mills producing 50 M per annum or more shows some interesting details (table 3). About half of the State's production originated in sawmills producing from 50 to 499 M board feet during the year. About 20 percent originated in mills which sawed from 500 to 999 M board feet, and 22 percent came from the largest producers, 1 million feet or more. Small mills produced the remaining 7.2 percent.

Table 3. -- Number and estimated production of sawmills by production classes, in MISSOURI, in 1942

Production class (M feet b.m.)	Sawmills	Lumber production	
		M feet b.m.	Percent
1 - 49	1,005	19,926	7.2
50 - 499	953	139,881	50.9
500 - 999	85	54,024	19.6
1000 - 4999	36	61,207	22.3
Total	2,084	275,038	100.0

For such a sizeable State production, operators reported holding rather low stocks on hand. Small mills held very little. A material decline in stocks on hand was reported by only one group, producers of 50 - 499 M per annum, who reported 5.5 million on January 1 and only 3.1 million feet on December 31, 1942. The next larger producing group gained from 0.3 to 1.0 million feet, and the producers of 1.0 million or more held steady (table 4). Taken as a whole stocks were reported to have declined from 14.3 million to 12.5 million feet, at the sawmills. The balance of the State's yearly output, apparently, moved rapidly to remanufacturers, to ultimate consumers, or into regular channels of distribution.

Table 4. -- Number and estimated production of mills reporting stocks on January 1 and December 31, 1942, and the amount of those stocks

Production class (M feet b.m.)	Mills reporting stocks on hand		Stocks on hand, 1942	
	Mills	Production	January 1	December 31
	No.	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.
1 - 49	28 ^{1/}	553 ^{1/}	75	111
50 - 499	102	21,684	5,526	3,106
500 - 999	21	13,622	305	1,032
1000 - 4999	18	37,320	8,443	8,309
Total	169	73,179	14,349	12,558

^{1/} Two mills were idle ones.

